
Another anecdotal goldfinch

From 1973 through 2019 (except for four years) I have spent an early February morning banding birds at a rural Morgan County (IL) home as a public birding event for the local Audubon Chapter. The homeowner provides an abundance of seed in many feeders. The number of birds banded each year has ranged from a high of 291 in 1985 and a low of 3 in 1976. To date, 34 species have been banded there. Over the years 1782 American Goldfinches have been banded there; the second most common bird encountered is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (830).

In a 2009 NABB account, an ASY female American Goldfinch caught at this location had been banded by Stephen Davis at his MAPS station near Regina,

SK, one and a half years earlier; it had travelled 1609 km (1000 miles) between the time of its banding and subsequent recapture.

Now another goldfinch from rural Morgan County is responsible for another interesting account, although the distance traveled is only 375 miles between banding and recovery sites. The bird was banded on 15 Nov 2014, recaptured 4+ years later on 9 Feb 2019 and then found by Morgan Piper as a casualty at Prior Lake, Scott County, MN, on 27 Jul 2019, 5+ months after its recapture.

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Inland Bird Banding Association – 2019 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association met 8 - 10 November 2019 at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL. The meeting included an evening presentation by Dr. T.J. Zenzal of the U.S.G.S. Wetland and Aquatic Research Center. Dr. Zenzal's presentation 'Understanding migrant habitat use with technology and field-based observations' was provided after the banquet on Saturday night. Paper and poster presentations explored an array of topics related to bird banding, molt and conservation, with an update from the Bird Banding Laboratory. The Saturday field trip centered on management for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the management of montane Longleaf Pine communities within the Talladega National Forest. There was workshop on Sunday morning on band removal. We would like to extend sincere thanks to Jackson State University's School of Science and Biology Department for their hospitality and assistance with meeting logistics.

Abstracts of Saturday presentations

Preformative molt in the White-eyed Vireo and its implications for age determination

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Contradictory information exists regarding the Jan. - Jun. 2020

extent of the preformative molt of the White-eyed Vireo, particularly regarding the replacement of primaries and primary coverts. I sought to clarify this state of affairs by describing the molt of hatching-years at Fort Hood Military Installation in central Texas. Here, near the southern edge of the species' breeding range, I expected birds to replace more feathers than in other parts of the breeding range and, thus, show the maximum possible extent of this molt. I examined 310 molting HY vireos during July, August, and September 2007-2019 and collected information about the condition of their primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries. 85% of these birds showed patterns indicating that they would replace seven or more outer primaries with 22% replacing all ten. 49% also replaced some primary coverts, typically a block of the outermost 4 to 7 quills. A few (3%) replaced all nine secondaries, but most (89%) replaced only three to six of these feathers. These results indicate that some HY White-eyed Vireos replace more primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries than indicated by Pyle's guide. The molt limits created by partial replacement of primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries provide excellent characters for recognizing HY/SY vireos. Molt limits in the primaries of this species can be